

1 In the Claims

2 1. A system for transmitting and receiving text, and displaying an indication of
3 the text, wherein the text is transmitted in an electronic signal, comprising:
4 a processor that produces an electronic signal containing a representation of textual
5 data;

6 a transmitter, connected to the processor, that transmits the electronic signal;
7 a connector that receives the electronic signal; and
8 a display, connected to the connector, that displays a particular library menu
9 relating to the textual data and based upon a user-entered selection.

10 2. The system of claim 1, wherein the processor produces the electronic signal as
11 a video formatted composite signal.

12 3. The system of claim 1, wherein the processor produces the electronic signal as
13 a signal to be transmitted over a telephone system.

14 4. The system of claim 1, wherein the display displays an electronic
15 representation of books on a book shelf, related to the textual data.

16 5. The system of claim 1, wherein the display formats the menu according to
17 title, author, International Standard Book Number, classification number, or category,
18 related to the textual data.

19 6. The system of claim 1, wherein the display comprises a microprocessor that
20 receives an indication of a selected portion of the textual data identified by the menu,
21 and wherein the display displays the selected portion of the textual data.

22 7. The system of claim 1, wherein the display displays a default menu.

23 8. The system of claim 1, wherein the connector comprises a set top terminal
24 with a memory for storage of the selected textual data, and the display comprises a
25 television.

26 9. The system of claim 1, wherein the display comprises a portable, hand-held
27 viewer.

- 1 10. The system of claim 1, wherein the processor comprises an encoder.
- 2 11. The system of claim 1, wherein the transmitter module comprises a broadcast
- 3 television transmitter.
- 4 12. The system of claim 1, wherein the transmitter comprises a cable television
- 5 transmitter.
- 6 13. The system of claim 12, wherein the connector further comprises a cable
- 7 connector, that extracts textual data from a video formatted composite signal.
- 8 14. The system of claim 1, wherein the display comprises:
- 9 a library unit, connected to the connector, for processing the textual
- 10 data, comprising:
- 11 digital logic for screening the textual data; and
- 12 a first memory for storing the textual data; and
- 13 a viewer, electronically communicating with the library unit, for
- 14 displaying the textual data as text.
- 15 15. The system of claim 14, wherein the library unit and the viewer are contained
- 16 within a common housing.
- 17 16. The system of claim 14, wherein the viewer comprises:
- 18 a second memory for storing textual data received from the library unit;
- 19 a microprocessor, connected to the second memory, for controlling the
- 20 functions of the viewer;
- 21 a digital display circuit, connected to the microprocessor, for creating
- 22 displays; and
- 23 a liquid crystal display, connected to the digital display circuitry, for
- 24 displaying text.
- 25 17. The system of claim 16, wherein the second memory for storing textual data
- 26 comprises a removable electronic card memory.

1 18. A method for distributing text material in textual data form using an electronic
2 signal and a transmission medium, comprising:

3 coding textual data onto an electronic signal;
4 transmitting the electronic signal over a transmission medium;
5 receiving the electronic signal from the transmission medium; and
6 displaying a particular library menu relating to the textual data and
7 based upon a user-entered selection.

8 19. The method of claim 18, wherein the coding step comprises producing the
9 electronic signal as a video formatted composite signal.

10 20. The method of claim 18, wherein the displaying step comprises displaying an
11 electronic representation of books on a book shelf, related to the textual data.

12 21. The method of claim 18, wherein the displaying step comprises formatting the
13 menu according to title, author, International Standard Book Number, classification
14 number, or category, related to the textual data.

15 22. The method of claim 18, further comprising:
16 receiving an indication of a selected portion of the textual data
17 identified by the menu; and
18 displaying the selected portion of the textual data.

19 23. The method of claim 18, wherein the displaying step comprises displaying a
20 default menu.

21 24. The method of claim 19, wherein the receiving step comprises receiving the
22 video signal from a set top terminal with a memory for storage of the selected textual
23 data, and the displaying comprises using a television to display the menu.

24 25. The method of claim 18, wherein the displaying step comprises using a
25 portable, hand-held viewer to display the menu.

26 26. The method of claim 18, wherein the coding step comprises using an encoder
27 for coding the textual data onto the electronic signal.

1 27. The method of claim 18, wherein the transmitting step comprises using a
2 broadcast television transmitter for transmitting the electronic signal.

3 28. The method of claim 19, wherein the transmitting step comprises sending the
4 textual data without any video, using the textual data to fill an entire channel of video,
5 and using a cable television transmitter to send the textual data.

6 29. The method of claim 28, wherein the receiving step comprises extracting
7 textual data from the video formatted composite signal.

8 30. The method of claim 18, wherein the displaying step comprises:

9 using a library unit connected to the connector for processing the
10 textual data; and

11 using a viewer, electronically communicating with the library unit, for
12 displaying the textual data as text.

13 31. The method of claim 30, further comprising using a common housing to
14 contain the library unit and the viewer.

15 32. A system for transmitting, receiving, and searching text, wherein the text is
16 transmitted in an electronic signal, comprising:

17 a module that produces an electronic signal containing a representation
18 of textual data;

19 a module, connected to the producing module, that transmits the
20 electronic signal;

21 a module that receives the electronic signal; and

22 a module, connected to the receiving module, that searches the textual
23 data, based upon a user-entered parameter, in order to locate a portion of the
24 textual data relating to the parameter.

25 33. The system of claim 32, wherein the producing module comprises a module
26 that produces the electronic signal as a video formatted composite signal.

1 34. The system of claim 32, wherein the searching module comprises a module
2 that searches the textual data according to title, author, International Standard Book
3 Number, classification number, or category, related to the textual data.

4 35. The system of claim 32, further comprising:

5 a module that receives an indication of a selected portion of the textual
6 data identified by results of the searching module; and

7 a module that displays the selected portion of the textual data.

8 36. The system of claim 32, further comprising a module that displays information
9 related to results of the searching module.

10 37. The system of claim 36, wherein the displaying module comprises a module
11 that displays an electronic representation of books on a book shelf, related to the
12 textual data.

13 38. The system of claim 33, wherein the receiving module comprises a set top
14 terminal with a memory for storage of the selected textual data, and the displaying
15 module comprises a television.

16 39. The system of claim 36, wherein the displaying module comprises a portable,
17 hand-held viewer.

18 40. The system of claim 36, wherein the producing module comprises an encoder.

19 41. The system of claim 32, wherein the transmitting module comprises a
20 broadcast television transmitter.

21 42. The system of claim 33, wherein the textual data is sent without any video and
22 fills an entire channel of video and wherein the transmitting module comprises a cable
23 television transmitter.

24 43. The system of claim 42, wherein the receiving module further comprises a
25 cable connector, comprising a module that extracts textual data from the video
26 formatted composite signal.

1 44. The system of claim 33, wherein the producing module places the textual data
2 into the vertical blanking interval of the video formatted composite signal and wherein
3 the selecting module comprises a vertical blanking interval extractor to select a
4 portion of the textual data.

5 45. The system of claim 36, wherein the displaying module comprises:
6 a library unit connected to the connector for processing the textual data
7 comprising:
8 digital logic for screening the textual data; and
9 a memory for storing the textual data; and
10 a viewer, electronically communicating with the library unit, for
11 displaying the textual data as text.

12 46. The system of claim 45, wherein the library unit and the viewer are contained
13 within a common housing.

14 47. The system of claim 45, wherein the viewer comprises:
15 a memory for storing textual data received from the library unit;
16 a microprocessor, connected to the memory, for controlling the
17 functions of the viewer;
18 a digital display circuit, connected to the microprocessor, for creating
19 displays; and
20 a liquid crystal display, connected to the digital display circuitry, for
21 displaying text.

22 48. The system of claim 47, wherein the memory for storing textual data
23 comprises a removable electronic card memory.

24 49. A method for distributing text material in textual data form using an electronic
25 signal and a transmission medium, comprising:
26 coding textual data onto an electronic signal;
27 transmitting the electronic signal over a transmission medium;

1 receiving the electronic signal from the transmission medium; and
2 searching the textual data, based upon a user-entered parameter, in
3 order to locate a portion of the textual data relating to the parameter.

4 50. The method of claim 49, wherein the coding step comprises producing the
5 electronic signal as a video formatted composite signal.

6 51. The method of claim 49, wherein the searching step comprises searching the
7 textual data according to title, author, International Standard Book Number,
8 classification number, or category, related to the textual data.

9 52. The method of claim 49, further comprising:

10 receiving an indication of a selected portion of the textual data
11 identified by results of the searching; and
12 displaying the selected portion of the textual data.

13 53. The method of claim 49, further comprising displaying information related to
14 results of the searching.

15 54. The method of claim 53, wherein the displaying step comprises displaying an
16 electronic representation of books on a book shelf, related to the textual data.

17 55. The method of claim 50, wherein the receiving step comprises receiving the
18 video formatted composite signal from a set top terminal with a memory for storage of
19 the selected textual data, and the displaying comprises using a television to display the
20 menu.

21 56. The method of claim 53, wherein the displaying step comprises using a
22 portable, hand-held viewer to display the menu.

23 57. The method of claim 49, wherein the coding step comprises using an encoder
24 for coding the textual data onto the electronic signal.

25 58. The method of claim 49, wherein the transmitting step comprises using a
26 broadcast television transmitter for transmitting the electronic signal.

1 59. The method of claim 50, wherein the transmitting step comprises sending the
2 textual data without any video, using the textual data to fill an entire channel of video,
3 and using a cable television transmitter to send the textual data.

4 60. The method of claim 59, wherein the receiving step comprises extracting
5 textual data from the video formatted composite signal.

6 61. The method of claim 53, wherein the displaying step comprises:
7 using a library unit connected to the connector for processing the
8 textual data; and
9 using a viewer, electronically communicating with the library unit, for
10 displaying the textual data as text.

11 62. The method of claim 61, further comprising using a common housing to
12 contain the library unit and the viewer.

13 63. A system for transmitting and receiving text, and displaying an indication of
14 the text, wherein the text is transmitted in an electronic signal, comprising:
15 means for producing an electronic signal containing a representation of
16 textual data;
17 means, connected to the producing means, for transmitting the
18 electronic signal;
19 means for receiving the electronic signal; and
20 means, connected to the receiving means, for displaying a particular
21 library menu relating to the textual data and based upon a user-entered
22 selection.

23 64. An electronic book catalog system for use with an electronic book unit,
24 comprising:
25 a connector coupled to the electronic book unit, the connector receiving
26 data related to an electronic book, the data including book classification data;
27 a memory that stores the received data; and

1 a processor that processes the stored data to produced an index of
2 electronic books.

3 65. The system of claim 64, wherein the index is a user-defined index including
4 one of author, time period, type of book, and book classification.

5 66. The system of claim 64, wherein the index is a standard library index.

6 67. The system of claim 66, wherein the library index is a Dewey Decimal
7 Classification system.

8 68. The system of claim 66, wherein the library index is a Library of Congress
9 classification system.

10 69. The system of claim 64, wherein the index includes an entry for the electronic
11 book.

12 70. The system of claim 69, wherein an index entry is generated automatically
13 when the electronic book is received at the electronic book unit.

14 71. The system of claim 69, wherein the index entry is generated manually after
15 receipt of the electronic book.

16 72. The system of claim 64, wherein the index is displayed on a display.

17 73. The system of claim 64, wherein the electronic book unit is used to order
18 electronic books, and wherein when an ordered electronic book conforms to an index
19 electronic book, the electronic book unit provides a menu window indicating that the
20 ordered electronic book exists in the electronic book unit.

21 74. The system of claim 64, wherein the electronic books are delivered to the
22 electronic book unit via a telecommunications network.

23 75. The system of claim 74, wherein the telecommunications system is a cable
24 television system.

25 76. The system of claim 74, wherein the telecommunications system is a wireless
26 television system.

1 77. The system of claim 74, wherein the telecommunications system is a broadcast
2 television system.

3 78. The system of claim 74, wherein the telecommunications network is a public
4 switched telephone network.

5 79. The system of claim 74, wherein the telecommunications network is a wireless
6 telephone network.

7 80. The system of claim 64, wherein an entire index is displayed on a display.

8 81. The system of claim 64, wherein a portion of an entire index is displayed on a
9 display.

10 82. The system of claim 81, wherein the portion of an entire index is based on a
11 user-defined entry, the user-defined entry selected from the group including author,
12 book category, key word, time period.

13 83. The system of claim 80, wherein the display is a viewer.

14 84. The system of claim 80, wherein the display is a television.

15 85. The system of claim 80, wherein the display is a personal computer.

16 86. The system of claim 80, wherein the display is a printer.

17 87. The system of claim 80, wherein the displayed index displays information
18 related to the electronic book, the information including title, author and date of
19 publication.

20 88. The system of claim 87, wherein the information further includes one of a
21 summary and end notes.

22 89. A method for generating and displaying a particular menu for a plurality of
23 electronic books, comprising:

24 accessing data associated with a plurality of electronic books;

25 receiving a request from a user for a menu relating to the electronic books;

26 generating the menu based upon the user's request; and

27 displaying the menu on a viewer.

1 90. The method of claim 89 wherein the displaying step includes displaying an
2 electronic representation of the electronic books on a book shelf.

3 91. The method of claim 89 wherein the displaying step includes formatting the
4 menu according to title, author, International Standard Book Number, classification
5 number, or category, relating to the electronic books.

6 92. The method of claim 89, further comprising:
7 receiving an indication of a selected one of the electronic books
8 identified by the menu; and
9 displaying at least a portion of the selected electronic book.

10 93. The method of claim 89 wherein the displaying step includes displaying a
11 default menu.

12 94. The method of claim 89 wherein the displaying step includes using a portable,
13 hand-held viewer to display the menu.

14 95. The method of claim 89, further comprising receiving the electronic books
15 through an electronic signal.

16 96. The method of claim 89, further comprising storing the plurality of electronic
17 books for display on the viewer.

18 97. The method of claim 96 wherein the storing step includes storing the
19 electronic books in the viewer.

20 98. A method for searching a plurality of electronic books, comprising:
21 accessing data associated with a plurality of electronic books;
22 performing a search of the accessed data;
23 displaying results of the search in a menu format on a viewer; and
24 selecting one of the electronic books for viewing using the displayed menu.

25 99. The method of claim 98, further comprising receiving a request from a user for
26 a search relating to the electronic books.

1 100. The method of claim 98 wherein the searching step includes searching the
2 electronic books according to title, author, International Standard Book Number,
3 classification number, or category, relating to the electronic books.

4 101. The method of claim 98 wherein the displaying step includes displaying an
5 electronic representation of a book shelf containing an indication of electronic books
6 identified by the results of the search.

7 102. The method of claim 98, further comprising:

8 receiving an indication of a selected one of the electronic books

9 identified by the results of the search; and

10 displaying at least a portion of the selected electronic book.

11 103. The method of claim 98 wherein the displaying step includes using a portable,
12 hand-held viewer to display the results of the search.

13 104. The method of claim 98, further comprising receiving the electronic books
14 through an electronic signal.

15 105. The method of claim 98, further comprising storing the plurality of electronic
16 books for display on the viewer.

17 106. The method of claim 105 wherein the storing step includes storing the
18 electronic books in the viewer.